

- 10 -

Claims:

1. A method of dispensing a liquid suspension from a reservoir of a liquid suspension held in a delivery system, wherein the reservoir of liquid suspension is of the type which is normally isolated from atmosphere, comprising the steps of:
 - a) increasing the volume of the reservoir above an initial volume so as to reduce the pressure in the reservoir to below atmospheric;
 - b) agitating the liquid suspension;
 - c) reducing the volume of the reservoir to the initial volume; and
 - d) subsequently dispensing at least a portion of the liquid suspension from the reservoir.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein at least a partial vacuum is created in the reservoir during step a).
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the delivery system comprises a piston member engageable in the reservoir and the at least partial vacuum is created by partially withdrawing the piston member from the reservoir.
4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3 wherein the liquid is dispensed by pressurising the reservoir to a level above atmospheric in step d).
5. A delivery system for dispensing a liquid suspension comprising a reservoir of the liquid suspension of the type which is normally isolated from atmosphere, means for creating at least a partial vacuum in the reservoir of liquid

- 11 -

suspension and means for dispensing at least a portion of the liquid from the reservoir subsequent to agitation of the liquid suspension.

5 6. The delivery system of claim 5 wherein the means for creating at least a partial vacuum in the reservoir of liquid suspension comprises means for increasing the volume of the reservoir while maintaining the reservoir isolated from
10 atmosphere.

7. The delivery system of claim 6 further comprising a piston member engageable in the reservoir.

15 8. The delivery system of claim 7 further comprising means for at least partially withdrawing the piston member from the reservoir so as to increase the volume of the reservoir.

20 9. The delivery system of claim 8 wherein the means for withdrawing the piston member comprises a rotatable member rotation of which urges the piston member to withdraw from the reservoir.

25 10. The delivery system of any of claims 5 to 9 wherein the reservoir contains a single dose of the liquid suspension.

30 11. The delivery system of claim 10 wherein the reservoir is integrally formed with the delivery system.

35 12. The delivery system of any of claims 5 to 9 wherein the reservoir contains multiple doses of the liquid suspension.

13. The delivery system of claim 12 wherein the

- 12 -

reservoir is integrally formed with the delivery system.

14. The delivery system of claim 12 wherein the reservoir is a replaceable component of the delivery system.
- 5
15. The delivery system of claim 14 wherein the reservoir is a vial, ampule or similar cartridge.
- 10
16. The delivery system of any of claims 5 to 15 wherein the delivery system is adapted for nasal use.
- 15
17. The delivery system of any of claims 5 to 15 wherein the delivery system is adapted for oral use.
18. Use of the delivery system of any of claims 5 to 20
- 17.
19. A delivery system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to or as shown in the accompanying drawings.

25